

ACT/045/017



STATE OF UTAH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NORMAN H. BANGERTE, GOVERNOR

SUZANNE DANDOL, M.D., M.P.H., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FILE COPY

August 8, 1986
533-6146

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Mr. John Sprague
General Manager
Barrick Mercur Gold Mines, Inc.
P. O. Box 838
Tooele, Utah 84074-0838

**DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING**

RE: Barrick Mercur Gold Mine
Leach Heap No. 2
Continued Operations

Dear Mr. Sprague:

As a result of the meeting held 18 July 1986 to discuss the leakage which has been detected in the Heap Leach No. 2 Leak Detection System, we have reached the following conclusion. Based on the information presented in the meeting, we will allow leaching operations to continue to the design life of the project based on the following conditions and assumptions:

Conditions:

1. Leach Heap No. 2 will be allowed to continue leaching operations up to the approved design life of six (6) years.
2. The leakage collected from the leak detection system of Leach Heap No. 2 will continue to be collected in the 1000 gallon fiberglass tank and pumped to Leach Heap No. 1.
3. The leakage collected from the leak detection system of Leach Heap No. 2 will be evaluated for its quantity and quality and monthly reports submitted to the Bureau of Water Pollution Control for review.
4. If any significant changes are observed in quality and/or quantity, the Bureau should be notified within 24 hours.
5. The leakage water which was discharged to the sedimentation pond and absorbed into the sediments will be neutralized. The sediments will be tested to insure neutralization and then removed and placed in the tailings pond as described by Mr. Eurick.

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6. Operating procedures should be evaluated so the depth of the pool of pregnant liquor on the synthetic liner can be kept to a minimum.
7. A brief report should be compiled which will evaluate the situation at Leach Heap No. 2 and conclude how future leach heaps will be modified to avert a reoccurrence of this situation.


Assumptions:

1. Based on the information presented at the meeting concerning the integrity of the clay aggregate leak detection liner, we feel it has been shown that, although the clay liner does not meet the minimum requirements specified in the Construction Permit, that substantial effort and care were used in its construction. The same source of clay was used to construct Leach Heap No. 2 as was used to construct Leach Heap No. 1. Also, the site for Leach Heap No. 2 was more suitable for construction of a clay liner than for Leach Heap No. 1. Due to the experience with Leach Heap No. 1, greatest care was used in the construction of the Leach Heap No. 2 clay liner.
2. The level of operator attention to the dump as specified in the Construction Permit will be extended also to the leak detection system.

Please call if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

UTAH WATER POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE



Calvin K. Sudweeks
Executive Secretary

cc: Mr. Frank D. Wicks, Vice Pres. Barrick Mercur Mine
Mr. Glenn M. Eurick, Barrick Mercur Mine
Mr. Scott M. Matheson, Parsons, Behle and Latimer
Mr. Tom Suchoski, Oil, Gas and Mining
Mr. Myron Bateman, Tooele County Health Dept.

CGD:mw
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